

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 SS-15 L-02 H-02 IGA-01 /075 W

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P R 031329Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7837

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 2971

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR CO

SUBJECT: SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTED VIEWS ON NARCOTICS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 064638 AND BOGOTA A-173 OF 9/12/74

SUMMARY. THE MISSION HASTAKEN EVERY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION TO ISOLATE THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNITS WITHIN GOC SO THAT COMMODITIES DONATED

TO THOSE ENTITIES WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE INTENDED AND TO PRECLUDE THEIR USE IN GENERAL POLICE WORK. TO DATE MOST US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT-INCLUDING VEHICLES, WHICH THIS MISSION BELIEVES ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE LOCAL INTERDICTION EFFORT, IS BEING UTILIZED WITH- IN

THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AND NOT FOR GENERAL POLICE WORK. END SUMMARY.

1. PLANNED EQUIPMENT: ALL EQUIPMENT DELIVERED AND ON-ORDER UNDER FY-75 NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND PROJECTED FOR FY-76 PROGRAM IS SPECIFICALLY

INTENDED FOR EXCLUSIVE USE BY EXPANDED NARCOTICS UNITS IN COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS, NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS). AS EQUIPMENT ARRIVES IN COUNTRY, IT IS ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO NARCOTICS UNITS.

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END-USE CHECKS CARRIED OUT BY TRAVELING MISSION OFFICERS ARE INTENDED

TO ASSURE THAT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS STIPULATING THAT US-DONATED EQUIPMENT IS TO BE USED ONLY BY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNITS ARE CARRIED OUT. THOUGH OUR END-USE CHECKS CONFIRM THAT MOST US-DONATED EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED FOR THE PURPOSE INTENDED, WE KNOW THAT SOME OF IT IS AND HAS BEEN USED FOR GENERAL POLICE WORK. MOST OF OUR PROBLEMS IN THIS REGARD HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE CHRONICALLY SHORT OF EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY VEHICLES. HARD-PRESSED GENERAL POLICE SUPERVISORS MAY TEMPORARILY DIVERT VEHICLES ASSIGNED TO SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS UNITS UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION.

IN SUCH CASES WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EFFECT THE RETURN OF SUCH BORROWED EQUIPMENT TO NARCOTICS UNITS. BUT, THIS IS A CONTINUING BATTLE.

2. VEHICLES: AS NOTED BELOW, BECAUSE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER NARCOTICS UNITS WERE CREATED DE NOVO BEGINNING ONLY IN 1972, AND ARE STILL BEING EXPANDED THROUGH ADDITIONS OF NEW RECRUITS, THEY HAVE LACKED EVERY SORT OF BASIC TOOL FROM VEHICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS LABORATORY AND FIELD TESTING GEAR. THE TWO BASIC NARCOTICS PROJECT AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH GOC IN FY-75, THEREFORE, PROVIDE US ASSISTANCE AMOUNT TO \$349,000, OF WHICH \$141,000

ARE ALLOTTED TO VEHICLE, SMALL BOAT, OUTBOARD MOTOR AND SPARE PARTS PURCHASES. (NOTE: REFTTEL ERRONEOUSLY STATES THAT 77 PERCENT OF FY-75 COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS PROGRAM IS FOR VEHICLES.) REMAINDER FY-75 NARCOTICS FUNDING GOES FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, NARCO DETECTION KITS, LOCAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING, STUDIES, ETC. ABOVE FY-75 TOTALS INCLUDE NEITHER THE SALARIES FOR TWO AID NARCOTICS ADVISORS, NOR COSTS FOR STATESIDE TRAINING FOR COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS AGENTS, WHICH ARE COVERED BY WASHINGTON CENTRAL FUNDS.

3. FY FY-76, MISSION HAS REQUESTED ONLY 70,000 DOLLARS-OR 24 PERCENT OF TOTAL 286,500 PROJECTED-FOR VEHICLES, SMALL BOATS AND MOTORS (BOGOTA A-173). PROPOSAL (SEE REFIAR PAGE 14) FOR PURCHASE ONE AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION EFFORTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC, DEA AND OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES, MISSION HAS OPTED TO PROGRAM THESE FUNDS TO SUPPORT CREATION OF NINE ADDITIONAL COMBINED (DAS, POLICE AND CUSTOMS)

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JUDICIAL POLICE UNITS TO BE STATIONED AT MAJOR COLOMBIAN PORTS TO ENTRY. THESE UNITS WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE, WHICH IS NOW BECOMING A FOURTH MAJOR PARTICIPANT IN LOCAL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT.

4. JUSTIFICATION: MISSIONS CONSIDERS VEHICLES AND SMALL BOATS VITAL ELEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF COLOMBIA'S STILL GROWING NARCOTICS INTERDICTION

DRIVE. WITH GOVERNMENT-WIDE AUSTERITY IN FORCE HERE, AND WITH ALL POLICE UNITS UNDER-EQUIPPED, NONE OF THE COLOMBIAN AGENCIES ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION HAS FUNDS SUFFICIENT FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

NEEDED SUPPORT RAPIDLY EXPANDING SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS UNITS. BECAUSE MOST VEHICLES (MAINLY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE) DEMANDED BY NARCOTICS INTERDICTION FUNCTION MUST BE IMPORTED, THESE PURCHASES INVARIABLY GET LOWEST PRIORITY IN ORDER AVOID SIZEABLE DRAINS ON COLOMBIA'S MEAGRE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, WHICH ARE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED. FINALLY, WE CONSIDER US FINANCING FOR VEHICLE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT PURCHASES JUSTIFIED IN NEW AND REPAIDLY EXPANDING PROGRAM SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN A COUNTRY WHERE COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT ARE AT BEST UNCERTAIN, AND IN AN INTERDICTION PROGRAM WHERE FAST REACTION IS ESSENTIAL. VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ARE, WE ARE CONVINCED, EXCELLENT INITIAL INVESTMENTS IN VITAL NON-EXPENDABLE HARDWARE. BECAUSE SUCH EQUIPMENT LASTS FOR MANY YEARS(AT LEAST FIVE YEARS IN THE CASE OF POLICE VEHICLES) WE NEED NOT REPEAT SUCH EXPENDITURES IN FUTURE. EVEN NOW, AS IS INDICATED BY THE PROGRAM PROJECTIONS NOTED ABOVE, THESE ITEMS ARE TAKING UP AN INCREASINGLY SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS.

5. EXTEND OF HOST COUNTRY COMMITMENT: THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORT EXPANDED NARCOTICS INTERDICTION EFFORTS, AS WELL AS RELATIVELY NEWER PROGRAMS AIMED AT EDUCATION, PRVENTION AND REHABILITATION. IN 1972, GOC CREATED ITS FIRST FULL-TIME, PROFESSIONAL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT WITHIN THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (F-2) OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. BY THE END OF 1972, THIS UNIT NUMBERED 50 AGENTS PLUS SUPPORT STAFF. IT NOW COMPRISES 120 AGENTS, 60 IN THE CAPITAL AND 60 MORE IN OUTLYING CENTERS. PLANS FOR EXPANSION THIS YEAR TARGET AN ADDITIONAL 40 AGENTS, PLUS INCREASED SUPPORT STAFF.

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INFO OCT-01 AID-05 ISO-00 IO-10 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 031329Z APR 75

FM AMEMASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7838  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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6. DAS AND CUSTOMS WERE LATER ENTRANTS INTO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. AT PRESENT DAS HAS ABOUT 30 FULL-TIME NARCOTICS AGENTS IN THE FIELD. SIMILARLY, CUSTOMS HAS FORMED ITS OWN SMALL SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS UNIT AND IS MOVING TO GIVE ADDITIONAL NARCOTICS TRAINING TO ITS AGENTS.

7. THE FOURTH SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS OUTFIT IS A COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE AGENCY UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE. IT IS COMPRISED OF EQUAL NUMBERS OF F-2, DAS AND CUSTOMS AGENTS. IN OPERATION SINCE 1973, THIS UNIT NOW TOTALSTZEP AGENTS WORKING IN ROTATION AT BOGOTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. AN IDENTICAL JUDICIAL POLICE UNIT WAS ESTABLISHED AT CALI AIRPORT IN MARCH 1975 AND SIMILAR ENTITIES ARE PLANNED AT NINE OTHER PORTS OF ENTRY AS FUNDING AND PERSONNEL BECOME AVAILABLE.

8. IN TZVBS OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, IT IS FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY GOC NARCOTICS COMMITMENT. FOR INSTANCE, DAS AND THE NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) ARE THIS YEAR BUDGETING A MINIMUM OF \$689,000 FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS. OF THIS SUM, ALL BUT A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS IS EARMARKED FOR AGENT SALAREIS, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, TECHNICAL AND OTHER SERVICES AND OPERATIONAL COSTS. BUT, SINCE BOTH SERVICES ARE AUGMENTING THE NUMBER OF NARCOTICS AGENTS ASSIGNED, EXPENDITURES ARE LIKELY TO BE EVEN HIGHER THAN THE MINIMUM STATED ABOVE AND WILL TAKE UP A LARGER SHARE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOTAL AGENCY OPERATING BUDGETS. WITH THE CUSTOMS NARCOTICS UNIT STILL TAKING SHAPE AND WITH ONLY TWO OF THEPLANNED EVELVEN COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE UNITS IN OPERATION, NEITHER CUSTOMS NOR THE ATORNEY GENERALS OFFICE HAVE MORE THAN A ROUGHT ESTIMATE OF TOTAL NARCOTICS EXPENDITURES THROUGH THE END OF THIS YEAR. MOREOVER, ARMY UNITS OF PLATOON OR COMPANY SIZE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CALLED INTO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF LARGE-SCALE NARCOTICS OPERATIONS. BECAUSE THESE COMBINED OPERATIONS ARE AD HOC IN NATURE, COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS MAKE NO ATTEMPT AT COST ANALYSIS.

9. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS. AT PRESENT, GOC HAS NO OPERATIVE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH FORMAL LEGAL GUIDELINES FOR SUCH A PROGRAM DO EXIST. GOC POLICY IS TO DESTROY ILLEGAL MARIJUANA AND COCA PLANTIATION WITHOUT CONSIDERATION FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION. THE MISSION CONTINUES CLOSELY TO MONITOR GOC RESEARCH AND THINKING IN THIS FIELD, BUT HAS NOT AND IS NOT YET PREPARED TO RECOMMEND

US SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE.

10. UNFDAC: DESPITE ITS CLEAR COMMITMENT TO DRUG ENFORCEMENT AND INTERDICTION, COLOMBIA HAS NOT YET RATIFIED THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTICS, NOR DOES IT CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNFDAC. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS COUNCIL WHO HAS PRIMARY ACTION RESPONSIBILITY ON BOTH ABOVE TOPICS- EXPLAINS THE CURRENT SITUATION AS FOLLOWS: BOTH HOUSES OF THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS VOTED IN THEIR LAST ORDINARY SESSION TO RATIFY THE SINGLE CONVENTION. A SECOND FAVORABLE VOTE IN BOTH HOUSES IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE RATIFICATION PROCESS. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BELIEVES THAT FINAL RATIFICATION WILL BE VOTED DURING THE NEXT ORDINARY CONGRESSIONAL SESSION BEGINNING IN JULY. ONCE RATIFICATION IS COMPLETE, THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND THAT COLOMBIA JOIN AND MAKE AT LEAST A TOKEN CONTRIBUTION TO UNQKDAC. BECAUSE COLOMBIA IS A HEAVY BORROWER FROM INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES AND A RECIPIENT OF UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUNDS, IT IS UNLIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT TO UNFDAC.

VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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